

## Sign and Language in Their Genesis

### T h e s e s

1. As natural soil for a sign serves **indication** (priznak, symptom, Anzeichen) - phenomenon which associatively, reflex and mentally is connected with the image of another phenomenon. A rain cloud is the indication of the coming rain, smoke is the indication of fire, etc., everything around us is a symptom for us. In particular, special symptoms - **tokens** (primeti, Merkmals) serve as a base of recognition (identification) of objects by their perception.

2. The **Genealogy** of sign: 1) **natural** indications; 2) **symbiotic** indications, morphologic and behavioral; 3) **expressions**; 4) feigned expressions; 5) **signals** -which awake not the image of another phenomenon but the immediate action. All of them are only fore-signs.

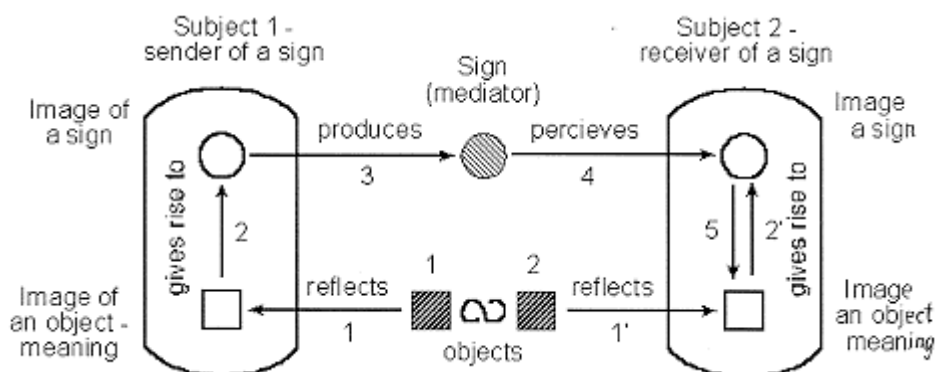
Communication of animals does not go higher than the expressions and signals. The "animals' language" does not exist.

3. The iconic actions produced with the communicative purpose are **gestures** and demonstrating things - **symbols** which are available only for the creatures who possess the ability to produce non-reflexive intentioned actions and things that is labour, and they become signs.

**Sign** is the artificial material phenomenon or the thing (mediator of a sign) which is produced arbitrary in irregular situation with the aim to awake in consciousness the images of other phenomena or things different from them. The artificial tokens - **marks** - form the material structure of the mediator of a sign.

4. There is immediate objective connection between a sign and a designated object (denotation, reference, expression, etc.). Its nominalistic fantasy is mysticism and a logical circle.

**Designation** (signification) occurs when a sign (mediator) of an object - denotation (Fig. 1 or 2) gives rise to the image (5) which **reflexes** the denotated object; and when the image gives rise to a sign (2 and 2'):



The system of the relationship 1 - 5 is both - designation and the sign communication. Its fore-basis is the reflexion (1 and 1'), the images of signs and objects (**meanings**) are their recognition.

5. **Understanding (make-sense)** of a sign is the reproduction in person's consciousness of the images similar (∞) to those which are meant by the signs producer (subject 1). Some coincidence of the implied meaning (I.M.) and perceived meaning (P.M.) forms the **meaning** of a sign which is always social.

Therefore the necessary fore-condition of the mutual communicative comprehension is the image **similarity** of both a sign and a meaning of communicating persons, but it could only result from the similarity of their practice and the practice's objects (1 and 2) which are the base for common semantics. The difference of I.M. and P.M. is the **overunderstanding**, false understanding taken for the veritable one.



6. Among the primary signs the **language** is created by the second level ones, relational and incomplete in meaning (auxilliary morphemes and words, operators):

1) **Locating (L)** - denote the relationship of a different sign (primary) to the situation: speaker, space, time, etc.,

2) **predicative-copilas (R)** - denote the concern of the meaning of one sign (the predicate of causation P) to the meaning of a different sign (the subject of the Causation S): SRP state which sign denotes the thing, which one - its action, object, means, condition, property, etc., - i.e. "Grammar".

The Language **System** is formed by the fore-signs (marks of the phonemes, expressions, signals), signs (primary-objective and relational) and super-signs (words divided into the parts, word combinations, sentences). As a result Seven-stage language hierarchy is built.

7. Due to the signs' connections the language acquires the **super-sign** quality which is greatly opposed to the sign: the additional new meaning of sign combinations (co-combination, connotation), predicativity, hierarchy, supersituation, metaphorical sense, speech creativity, etc., becomes this way the means of the organisation of the social practice and thinking.

### **References:**

*Ibraev L.I.* Oversight of Language // Voprosy yazykoznanija (Problems of Linguistics), Moscow: Academy of Science, 1981, N 1, pp.17-35.

*Ibraev L.I.* To the Problem of the Genesis of Signs and their Classification // Filosofskie nauki, Moscow: Higher School, 1984, N 5, pp. 30-39.

More you can look in Russian version: [Знак и язык в их генезисе.](#)

[Происхождение языка.](#) (The origin of Language.)

+ Also in Internet in Internet: [www.mari-el.ru/homepage/ibraev/](http://www.mari-el.ru/homepage/ibraev/)

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